

Valentin Koupny, chief of the 'Sarcophague" the concrete sealing of the Block 4 of the infamous Chernobyl nuclear power plant - wipes away some sweat during his speech on the specification of the concrete sealing object given at an international scientific practical conference, in Ukraine on Friday, which was devoted to the ninth anniversary of the sarcophegue's erection in 1986. The difficult economic situation of the Ukraine currently would not allow to finance another one billion US dollars for the construction of an additional sealing of Block 4, called "Cover Object-2", Koupny said. — AFP/UNB photo

King Fahd in good condition: Saudi Arabian King Fahd, in hospital for tests, apparently suffered a fainting spell but the diabetic monarch is now in good condition and receiving well-wishers, sources in the kingdom said on Sunday, Reuter reports from Dubai.

"There is no panic or concern... his majesty (had) suffered a bit of fainting," one source said. The royal court on Thursday announced that the 73-year-old king had been admitted to hospital triggering rumours about his condi-

Russia-Japan sign fishing accord: Russia and Japan signed an agreement yesterday keeping Japan's fishing quota at 100,000 tonnes a year in each of two maritime economic zones. ITAR-Tass news agency reported, quoting the state fishery committee. AFP reports from Moscow.

After 12 rounds of talks, the Japanese side also gave assurances that Tokyo would try to avoid violations of Russian waters by its fishing boats and would pay fines lived after previous incidents.

Vietnamese woman jailed for fraud: A Vietnamese peasant woman who illegally set up a credit bank and attracted 250,000 US dollars from 300 investors by offering attractive interest rates, was jailed for 20 years for fraud, the trade union paper Lao Dong reported Saturday, AFP says from Hanoi.

Bui Thi Teo could only reimburse 100,000 dollars of the invested funds, a court in the northern city of Haiphong was told.

2 kidnappers convicted in WB: A military court in the West Bank Palestinian self-rule enclave of Jenin on Saturday convicted two men of kidnapping two Israeli soldiers and sentenced them to nine years in jail with hard labour, Reuter reports from Jenin.

"You disturbed our relations with Israel. You kidnapped Israeli soldiers despite the Palestinian authority being in charge," the court's verdict read.

Algerian newsman stabbed to death: An Algerian journalist and his driver were stabbed to death last Saturday night in an Algiers suburb, an Algerian security service's statement said yesterday, Reuter says from Paris.

The journalist was named as Hamid Mahiout, a 45-yearold working for the Independent Liberte French language daily the statement added. His body and that of his driver, Ahmed Benkhefallah, were found this morning said the statement, reported by the official Algerian news agency

Jordan signs defence accord with France

AMMAN, Dec 3: Jordan on Saturday signed a wide ranging defence cooperation accord with France and asked for upgrading of its ageing Mirage plane fleet, officials said, reports Reuter.

"We have signed an accord which is wider in scope than a framework treaty, with articles that can be implemented," French Defence Minister Charles Millon told reporters after signing the agreement with Jordan's Prime Minister Sharif Zeid bin Shaker.

The pace covers supply of armaments and contains a separate protocol on joint military exercises.

Shevardnadze

bans Alpha Force

"We will hold joint military exercises, and the Jordanian prime minister emphasised the offer for the French forces to hold joint exercises in Jordan," said Millon.

Millon said a team of French defence experts would examine Jordan's weapons needs, including fighter planes, in the coming

Jordanian officials said Bin Shaker asked Millon for upgrading of Jordan's fleet of 31 Mirage F-1 fighter planes Modernising the fleet, which is outclassed by all Jordan's rivals in the region, is a top priority for King Hussein.

1983, reports Reuter.

July 24: Anti-Tamil riots

break out throughout Sri

Lanka and at least 400 people

killed in Colombo. The riots

are in retaliation for the

killing and mutilation of 13

majority Sinhalese soldiers

the day before by the LTTE in

Aug 5: Parliament adopts

1983

the north.

Lankan troops begin mopping up pockets of Tigers' resistance

COLOMBO, Dec 3: Hundreds of Sri Lankan troops today began mopping up pockets of rebel resistance after taking control of the Tamil guerilla bastion of Jaffna in the Island's north the military said, reports

Infantry soldiers on Saturday captured the former Jaffna Fort, giving them overall control of the town which had been the capital of a de facto state run by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam LTTE) since 1990.

'A clearing operation is now underway," a military spokesman here said. "There is no escape for the Tigers trapped inside the town, we will take care of them one by

At least three soldiers were killed overnight by LTTE snipers holding out in houses and buildings, the spokesman said.

He said thousands of soldiers sealed off Jaffna on Sat-

MQM's strike

paralyses

Karachi

called by the ethnic Mohajir

National Movement (MQM)

paralysed much of Pakistan's

biggest city Karachi today

after militants fired in the air

and burned vehicles

overnight, witnesses said,

Hospital and police

sources said gunmen killed at least four people in separate

shootings on Saturday after

the MOM called for a day of

mourning in the southern

province of Sindh to protest

alleged police disruption of

streets on Saturday night.

throwing stones and firing in

the air. Fire brigade officials

said seven vehicles were set

ablaze in different parts of

rangers in armoured vehicles

patrolled trouble spots in the

southern port city, where

ethnic and sectarian unrest

has cost more than 1.730

Diana meets royal

aides to discuss

her future

Diana, estranged wife of heir

to the throne Prince Charles,

has met royal aides to discuss

her future, which she sees as

an ambassador of goodwill for

Britain Buckingham Palace

offered the loner princess

talks after her stunningly

open television interview last

month where she admitted

adultery, branded palace offi-

cials as "the enemy," and won

fectly amicable," a palace

spokesman said, adding that

Diana, 34, met senior royal

household figures this week

and there and had been no

atmosphere of confrontation.

Tax cuts fail to

boost popularity

of Major govt

tax cuts announced last week

failed to boost the popularity

of the British government

which has actually loss

ground to the opposition

Labour Party, an opinion poll

in the Sunday Times news-

paper showed, reports

after Tuesday's budget an-

nouncement, gave Labour a

32 percentage-point lead

over Prime Minister John

Major's Conservatives, four

points up since the months

since Major was reelected as

Conservative Party leader in

July after a sudden show-

down with party dissenters

who blamed him for their

It was Labour's best lead

The Nop poll, conducted

Reuter.

LONDON, Dec 3: Income

"The meeting was per-

applause from the people.

The royal establishment

said, reports Reuter.

LONDON, Dec 3: Princess

Police and paramilitary

Armed youths took to the

an activist's funeral.

Karachi.

lives this year.

reports Reuter.

KARACHI, Dec 3: A strike

urday, the 47th day of Sri Lanka's biggest military of fensive, which is aimed at dominating the sprawling Jaffna Peninsula and dis mantling the LTTE's administrative structures.

Saturday's victory came after the deaths of at least 508 soldiers and 1.925 guerillas in the offensive. Which also left thousands of civilians homeless and prompted a nationwide alert for Tiger revenge attacks.

Chief military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe admitted fighting could continue for some time vet.

"Psysically we are not in the town centre yet, but no one can go in and no one can come out," he told AFP. "We have sealed off Jaffna. Clearing the entire place will take a few more days."

Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte, who led the army's decisive drive against the LTTE, said the

SARAJEVO, Dec 3:

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris

Silajdzic on Saturday wel-

comed the deployment of US

troops to his country as part

of a NATO peace implemen-

doubted they would sustain

lation of Bosnia-Herzegovina

and the Serbs welcome them

I personally do not expect

casualties...," Silajdzic told

stable truce. We would like to

translate that truce, that

ceasefire into a stable peace.

We can do that. We don't

want them to fight our wars."

first armoured division are

Units of the US Army's

"We have a very solid and

reporters in Sarajevo.

casualties, reports Reuter.

tation force and said he

"The majority of the popu-

capture of Jaffna would not be the end of the military

It will not be the end of the operation," Ratwatte said "In our quest for peace, this is only a symbol. This is the territory that was not been under our control for over 10

The Defence Ministry said the 16th-century Dutch-built fort, which was razed by the Tigers in 1990 after hundreds of soldiers were evacuated from there following an LTTE siege, was taken after ferocious battles.

The five-pointed starshaped fort has been a symbol of dominance over Jaffna, the fountain head of a dragging Tamil separatist campaign which has left more than 50,000 people dead over two decades.

The fall of Jaffna shattered the LTTE's image as an invincible guerilla movement. defence analysts said. The

A Bosnian-Croat Woman shows the picture of her son who got killed last year during

fighting between Bosnian-Croats and Bosnian-Serbs as she demonstrates with hundred

others during a rally in the centre of Zagreb on Saturday to protest against the Dayton

peace agreement. Croatian President Franjo Tudjman is criticised by the Bosnian-Croats

Silajdzic welcomes US troops

to Bosnia as part of NATO force

Bosnia within days, a down-

payment on about 20,000 US

troops being despatched to

help implement a peace plan

urday from a visit to the

United States where he tried

to holster congressional sup-

port for sending US troops to

Capitol Hill remains an exit

strategy whereby US and

other NATO troops are able

to leave Bosnia after the year

equipment and training.

There is a fear that there is

no exit strategy, and equip-

ment and training is related

"The issue on the hill is

they plan to spend here.

He said one issue on

Silajdzic returned on Sat-

agreed on November 21st.

for having sanctioned territorial swaps and rewarded separatist Serbs.

Bosnia.

LTTE's clandestine radio Voice of Tigers, has predicted the setback a day ear-

the armys stronghold on Jaffna, the estimated 500 Tigers holed up inside have lost their only escape route by boats and could now surrender or commit suicide. Munasinghe

LTTE guerillas carry cyanide pills to bite to escape being taken alive.

The fort's capture gave a dramatic twist to the military offensive. Which had been considerably slowed down in recent days by the LTTE. which extensively mined the area and rigged Jaffna buildings with booby traps.

The battle of Jaffna involving 15,000 government soldiers became a matter of prestige for President Chandrika Kumaratunga after the LTTE abruptly pulled out of peace talks in April, shattering six months of peace.

AFP/UNB photo

course," the prime minister

are able to defend themselves

the sooner the American and

other troops be able to with-

draw from Bosnia-Herzegov-

Baumholder, Germany: US

President Bill Clinton for-

mally approved on Saturday a

NATO plan to deploy troops

in Bosnia and paid a special

visit here to boost the morale

of US units heading for the

when the first troops would

leave for Bosnia-Herzegovina,

with a government official

denying earlier reports that

advance units would head

But it remained unclear

former Yugoslav republic.

"The sooner the Bosnians

adds from

Former ROK president Chun sent to jail

SEOUL, Dec 3: Former southern city of Kwarigju and South Korean president Chun left some 200 people dead. Doo-Hwan was thrown in jail Earlier in Hapchon, about today on charges of heading a 300 kilometres (180 miles) south of Seoul, investigations 1979 military mutiny, the second former head of state

scuffled with a dozen hometo be detained in under three town supporters when they forced ex-president. Chun, who ruled South A dozen villagers and Korea from 1980 to 1988 folrelatives yelled behind a police blockade as a grim-looklowed Roh Tae-Woo, who was jailed on November 16 on ing Chun was escorted into

corruption charges. Chun was the Sedan. arrested in his hometown of

"If I were a criminal, then Hapchon and whisked by Kim Young-Sam himself should also take responsibility for his collusion with rebellious formers," the ex-Outside the Anyang president said.

Chun, who had spent two years in exile in a remote gry protesters who shouted Buddhist temple to atone for his past, also challenged Kim to explain how the president rocks as it passed through could punish him after joining forces with him and his successor Roh Tae-Woo to The arrest came one day win the 1992 presidential after the 64-year-old former

> Chun's audacity shocked the ruling camp, adding to the political turmoil created by a massive corruption scandal.

Off the Record

weeks, reports AFP.

urbs of Seoul.

prison compound.

prosecutors in a black Sedan

to jail in the southern sub-

prison, the car carrying Chun

was mobbed by dozens of an-

execute the murderer."

kicked the car and hurled

the gates of the high-walled

general rejected a prosecu-

tors' summons for question-

ing on his role in a 1979

bloody civil uprising in the

coup, which triggered

Sad tale behind their pleasure trip

BONN: Up to 5,000 children under 16 are abused every year by German "sex tourists" Berlin Free University Professor Dieter Kleiber told a symposium Wednesday, reports

But Kleiber warned that the country's sex tourists should not all be accused of child abuse. He said only about 1.2 per cent of Germany's estimated 300,000 tourists who travelled abroad for sexual experiences had these with

Favourite places for German sex tourists are Thailand. Sri Lanka and the Philippines which sent representatives to the symposium in Bonn organised by the German Justice Ministry. The Minister Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger said

German lawmakers must shoulder their responsibility when Germans exploit the social situation in some countries in order to sexually abuse children. She also called on the authorities in the countries

prosecutions. Germans who sexually abuse children abroad can since 1993 be prosecuted under German law but Burkhard Gnaerig of the humanitarian body Terre Des Hommes said the law had not achieved its aim.

where it happened to cooperate in ensuring successful

Asian diet — a model for healthy eating

WASHINGTON DC: Traditional Asian foods moderate consumption of wine, cake and tea re, at a model diet, coming from countries with some of the lowest rates of chronic diseases in the world's a group of researchers said Friday, reports AFP.

The researchers, concluding a three-day international conference in San Francisco, unveiled an "Asian pyramid" as a guide to nutrition — an alternative to the pyramid de-

veloped by US public health officials The diet contains similar health benefits to the socalled "Mediterranean diet" also linked by studies to low rates of heart disease and other ailments.

The Asian pyramid is weighted heavily with rice products, noodles, millet and other grains, with vegetables, legumes and fruits next in importance.

The recommendation also called for optional daily consumption of fish, shell fish or dairy products, eggs and poultry once a week and meat served just once a month. "The Asian diet as described here represents a cultural

model for healthy eating," a conference statement said. But the statement also warned that traditional Asian

diets are in danger because of economic changes. The statement said black and green tea appear to have

health benefits and that wine, beer and other alcoholic beverages consumed in moderation by many in Asia may be a healthy habit. Researchers from Conrnell University and Harvard Uni-

versity participated in the conference, sponsored by oldways preservation and exchange trust.

DPP may moderate crusade for Taiwan's independence TAIPEI, Dec 3: Shaken by main opposition party but its

a vote which decimated its party leaders, Taiwan's powerful opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) may have to consider moderating its erusade for this Island's independence from China. analysts and officials said today, reports Reuter.

In contrast to the late 1980s when pro-independence dissidents were hailed as heroes in a democratic new dawn, two former DPP chairman and several top pro-independence activists on Saturday lost key seats in parliamentary elections.

The party won four more seats on Saturday to gain 54 in the 164- seat legislative Yuan, a result which fell short of its forecast of 60 seats. It remains the Island's gains paled in comparison with those of a third party. the New Party, which trippled its support to win 21 seats. The ruling nationalists got 85. The DPP's problem, put

simply, is China.

Beijing's intimidating military exercises near Taiwan and its threat to invade if Taipei embraces independence, appears to be cutting support for the more outspoken of pro-independence ac-

"Communist China's missile tests, though they did not shake the ruling nationalist party's leading position. they made it difficult for the pro-independence DPP to develop its political market." the United Daily News said

Rabin murder was

MOSCOW, Dec 3: Georgian President Eduard Shevardfollowing is a chronology of nadze has Dissolved an elite 12 years of bloody war waged forces unit linked to an asby Sri Lanka's Liberation sassination attempt on him in Tigers of Tamil Eelam late August, state security (LTTE) for an independent head Avtandil losseliani said homeland for minority on Saturday, reports AFP. Tamils in majority Sinhalese The anti-terrorist Alpha Sri Lanka. More than 50,000 people have been killed since

Force was disbanded because some of its members are charged with taking part in August 29 car bomb attack in which Shevardnadze suffered minor injuries, losseliani added, cited by ITAR-Tass news agency.

. It had been run by state security SGB, successor to the Soviet-era KGB, but was placed under the president's direct authority immediately after the attack.

COLOMBO, Dec 3: The law banning political parties which call for separation. 1984

poor showing.

LTTE begins campaign of ethnic cleansing in the north and east by attacking Sinhalese villages in the northeastern border areas. The Tigers kill 127 people, mostly Sinhalese, living in two border villages.

1985 May 14: Guerillas attack sacred north-central city of Anuradhapura, killing 150

July 8-13: Sri Lankan officials meet LTTE representatives and Tamil leaders in Bhutan for peace talks.

May 3: Tigers bring the

war to Colombo, bombing an Airlanka plane at Colombo Airport, killing 16 people. 1987

April 21: Tigers explode car bomb at Colombo central bus stand killing 113 and wounding scores more.

Velupillai Prabhakaran arrives in India for talks. July 29: Thousands of Sinhalese protest against Indian intervention, rioting and

looting as Rajiv Gandhi arrives in Colombo to sign the Indo-Lanka peace pact with President Junius Jayewardene. July 30: Indian troops ar-

rive in Jaffna to enforce pact.

Aug 5: LTTE begins to sur-

elected president. He July 24: LTTE leader promises to send Indian troops back and begin negotiations with LTTE. 1989

battle.

1988

April 12: Government begins a ceasefire offering a peace package to the LTTE. which includes amnesty and rehabilitation. July 29: India begins

withdrawal of troops. 1990 Feb 23: Premadasa begins in Jaffna talks with LTTE. 1995

March 13 Last of the Indian troops leave Sri Lanka. June 11: Premadasa's "honeymoon" with LTTE ends as Tigers overrun police stations in east.

1993 Jan 15: Anglican bishop Kenneth Fernando claims LTTE is ready for peace talks after meeting Prabhakaran in Jaffna.

May 1: LTTE suicide bomber kills President Premadasa in Colombo. 1994

Aug 16: People's Alliance government comes to power promising an end to 11 years of bloody war.

Oct 13: Peace talks begin Lankan army

Chronology of Tigers' 12 yrs of bloody war for Eelam Jan 8: Tigers and govern ment agree to truce. Peace talks continue in Jaffna.

> April 19: Tigers break truce, blow up two navy boats killing 12 sailors.

> Oct 17: Troops launch operation to take full control of

Jaffna peninsula Oct 26: Tamil rebels massacre 24 Sinhalese villagers in east after slaughtering 90 villages in earlier attacks to

try to divert troops from north. Nov 11: Two Tamil rebel suicide bombers kill 15 peo-

ple in Colombo in unsuccessful attack on army headquar-

Dec 2: Jaffna falls to Sri

'a set up' says Amir TEL AVIV. Dec 3: The

confessed assassin of Yitzhak Rabin said in court today that the prime minister's murder was a set up as a judge ordered him held in custody for another four days because of new evidence. "It's all a set up," Yigal Amir, 25, told reporters as he entered the court room, reports AFP.

The right wing Jewish fanatic has admitted to shooting Rabin during a November 4 peace rally in Tel Aviv

The judge in the Tel Aviv court ordered Amir to be quiet, but the religious law student continued, shouting: 'In this country we kill peo-



Minister and Javier Solana face the US delegation led by President Bill Clinton (R) and Secretary of State Warren Christopher (2nd R) at the Moncloa Palace in Madrid yesterday during an American-European summit. Both parties signed an accord designed to boost trade and political cooperation. - AFP/UNB photo

render weapons to Indian

army, but later changes its

mind and engages them in

Ranasinghe Premadasa is

Dec 19: Prime Minister